

69. (New) The system of claim 67, wherein the invocation mechanism further comprises at least one of the group consisting of: a UDF, a table function, a virtual table, a stored procedure, a trigger, a query statement, and a federated table, and an equivalent of any of the foregoing.

70. (New) The system of claim 67, further comprising means for invoking the invocation mechanism from a database.

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71. (New) The system of claim 67, further comprising means for converting data accessed by the invocation mechanism into a format understood by the database.

72. (New) The system of claim 67, wherein the interface further comprising a graphical user interface for receiving function customization specifications.

73. (New) The system of claim 67, wherein the customization specifications further comprise specification of a relational format for nonrelational data accessed by the customized function.

74. (New) The system of claim 67, wherein the interface further comprises means for previewing nonrelational data in relational format based on customization specifications.

75. (New) A method for generating a customized invocation mechanism, comprising the steps of:

receiving customization specifications; and

building an invocation mechanism based on the customization specifications, wherein the invocation mechanism is invokable by a database for accessing data external to the database.

76. (New) The method of claim 75, wherein the invocation mechanism is dynamically generated.

77. (New) The method of claim 75, wherein the invocation mechanism further comprises at least one of the group consisting of: a UDF, a table function, a virtual table, a stored procedure, a trigger, a query statement, and a federated table, and an equivalent of any of the foregoing.

78. (New) The method of claim 75, further comprising the step of invoking the invocation mechanism from a database.

79. (New) The method of claim 75, further comprising the step of converting data accessed by the invocation mechanism into a format understood by a database.

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80. (New) The method of claim 75, wherein the function customization specifications are received through a graphical user interface.

81. (New) The method of claim 75, wherein the customization specifications further comprise specification of a relational format for nonrelational data accessed by the customized function.

82. (New) The method of claim 75, further comprising the step of previewing nonrelational data in relational format at a user interface based on user customizations.

83. (New) A program product containing instructions executable by a computer, the instructions embodying a method for generating a customized invocation mechanism, comprising the steps of:

receiving customization specifications; and

building an invocation mechanism based on the customization specifications, wherein the invocation mechanism is invokable by a database for accessing data external to the database.

84. (New) The method of claim 83, wherein the invocation mechanism is dynamically generated.